



Everyday Technology Unveiled

Is the idea of an artificially intelligent house and appliances really just imagination?

I remember when I was a little girl I would wake up in the night, frightened because I had heard a noise, feeling quite sure it was monsters under my bed or in

my closet. These days when I wake up to the sounds of the night I can't help wondering, just maybe, if it's the sounds of the toaster conspiring with the oven to break free of their lives of human servitude. As Bob Dylan's lyrics aptly say, "the times they are a changing." But is the idea of an artificially intelligent house and appliances really just imagination?

Smart House Enterprise (www.smart-house.com.my), located in Malaysia, has already taken the first step by producing home automation products that allow the homeowner to control every electrical device from a touch screen, home control, handheld remote, desktop controller, or even the telephone. Now when you're halfway to your vacation destination and realize you forgot to close the garage door, you can just dial the house and close

and lock the door. Smart House Enterprises' products use the X-10 Power Line Carrier (PLC) technology as the backbone for carrying control/monitoring signals. X-10 is a communications language that allows transmitters and receivers to talk to each other via existing electrical wiring in the building. The X-10 PLC technology transmits binary data over the power line using a 120 kHz signal burst for 1 ms at the zero crossing point of the AC sine wave. Very intelligent, but at this point there is no artificial intelligence in any these products, although that may be the next technological breakthrough. The concept of artificial intelligence involves technology that is able to reason and problem-solve through logic, rather than the current process of order-response direction.

If you need help around the house, another option that is in the final stages of development is

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Open Source: A Strategic Overview

The final article in this series examines the role of Open Source Distributors, and outlines some of the opportunities and challenges of Open Source based systems.

When we discussed the components of Open Source systems we noted that they are the product of tens of thousands of developers working on thousands of different projects. Each of these projects deliver a set of source code files, usually in C or C++, which are made available on a public server for downloading. Anyone is welcome to download these source code files and make whatever use of them they like. However building a useful system using this approach would be a daunting task.

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President's Message



As we reflect on our 2004/2005 strategy, many of our targets and objectives have been achieved this year.

When our Board met over a year ago to kick off the season, we established a vision "to make Calgary the most vibrant IT community in all of Canada". In reflecting back on the strategy we embarked upon, many of our targets and objectives have been achieved this year. Perhaps most satisfying was the feedback from several CIOs and CIPS members who said "they sensed a renewed enthusiasm surrounding the CIPS organization".

Our activities throughout the year focused on fostering education and networking opportunities for our members in a professional atmosphere. While the list of accomplishments is longer than I have room to write in this column, here are a few organizational and event highlights from this year:

- Created the CIPS Ambassador role and established an external advisory team to provide direction in ensuring our programs were valuable and relevant to the membership.
- Re-established the CIPScene newsletter with a new look and content focus.
- Held a series of informative, well-attended luncheons with high quality speakers throughout the year.
- Held a number of successful CIO breakfast events.
- Created a relationship team responsible for increasing the awareness of CIPS by marketing to the greater IT community.
- Strengthened our relationships with the existing Special Interest Groups (SIGS) and added a new Business Analyst SIG.
- Held a successful I.S.P. campaign culminating in a fantastic wine tasting event.

As President, it was a pleasure to meet and work with so many wonderful people involved in CIPS. A special thank you goes to all the Board members and related subcommittees for volunteering their time and their passion towards making a difference. I'd also like to recognize and thank all those organizations that sponsored our events throughout the year. Your incoming President, Trekker Armstrong, and the 2005/2006 Board have next year's planning well underway and it looks like a terrific season is shaping up. Have a great summer!! ■

Sandra Scott – President

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Honda's first humanoid robot, ASIMO. ASIMO is an acronym that stands for "Advanced Step in Innovative Mobility." ASIMO also stems from the Japanese word "ashi" which means leg or foot, and "mo" which stands for mobility. ASIMO is the world's first robot that can walk, climb up and down stairs, recognize people, and obey voice and hand commands. ASIMO is the result of 18 years of work at Honda's Research & Development Wako Fundamental Technical Research Centre in Japan. Honda has produced approximately 30 ASIMOs so far and amazingly many of them already have jobs. ASIMOs have been employed as tour guides in museums and as greeters at high-tech companies in Japan. There is one ASIMO that stars in his own Educational Tour of North America: the "Say Hello to ASIMO" tour. ASIMO visits computer science and engineering campuses to showcase the many real-life applications of computer science and engineering.

ASIMO contains 26 separate servomotors, giving it 26 degrees of freedom. You can view video clips of ASIMO walking, speaking, and climbing stairs at www.asimo.honda.com. ASIMO uses DC brushless motors and is powered by a rechargeable 40V/10AH nickel metal hydride (Ni-MH) battery. It can operate for approximately 30 minutes on a single charge and takes approximately four hours to fully recharge. ASIMO, like the Smart House, has no reasoning capabilities or artificial intelligence but it is not too far-fetched to believe that this is in the works.

In the future, Honda hopes that ASIMO may serve as another set of eyes, ears, hands, and legs for all kinds of people in need. In fact, someday ASIMO may help with important tasks like assisting the elderly, or people confined to beds or wheelchairs, as well as tasks that are dangerous to humans, such as fighting fires or cleaning up toxic spills. Being the first to approach ethical standards for future humanoid robots, Honda has stated that ASIMO will not be employed for military purposes.

When Honda begins production for the consumer market we may think back to the good old days of uneventful Christmases past when the first "Fergies" or "Tickle Me Elmos" were introduced. Now we'll have people storming the Honda dealerships, wanting an ASIMO of their own. What they say is true; you can't stop technology. I'll just have to remember not to store ASIMO under my bed or in my closet. ■

Rebecca Darling is currently working on her applied bachelor degree in communications with a minor in French language at Mount Royal College. After Rebecca finishes her program she wants to relax!

ASIMO, like the Smart House, has no reasoning capabilities or artificial intelligence but it is not too far-fetched to believe that this is in the works.

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tions that answer our clients' needs for improved access to information, easier ways to conduct their business and generating maximum return on their IT investments.

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Real people driving real value-that's Metafore. ■

continued from page 1 – Open Source

Distributors take on the task of acquiring, integrating, compiling, and packaging the various components required to establish a useful working system. Distributors also develop and provide tools to assist with installation and configuration of their environment. Each distributor offers a different set of components and applications, and are often focused on particular requirements. For example, Red Hat Enterprise Linux is intended for large enterprise servers, while OpenBSD is an outstanding platform for highly secure networking.

OPPORTUNITIES

Until recently, Open Source had been dismissed as a hobbyist novelty that had limited application in most IT organizations. However this situation has now changed. Where it is a viable alternative, Open Source offers compelling advantages:

- absence of license fees
- independence from vendor driven change (e.g. forced upgrades, product end of life)
- native support for rich applications interfaces on thin clients
- proven capacity to support large scale, highly available, secure solutions (e.g. Google)
- ability to constrain server and workstation configuration to specific requirements, improving reliability and serviceability.
- consistency in skill sets, fundamental technologies, and administrative and security practices across a wide range of platforms

Web application servers: With a number of application frameworks (LAMP, Zope, Tomcat), content management systems (Bricolage), and the leading web server (Apache) being available, Open Source provides the premiere platform for the implementation of web applications of all kinds.

Network services and infrastructure: Much of the IT infrastructure of an organization, such as client configuration (DHCP), name resolution (DNS), file and print services, Virtual Private Networking (VPN), and mail services (SMTP, IMAP) can be provided using Open Source based tools. These solutions are often more reliable, and always more configurable, than proprietary offerings. In addition to these basic services, several large-scale commercial databases (e.g. Oracle) can be hosted on Open Source platforms.

Limited function/thin clients: Open Source based clients are the ideal choice when kiosk or limited functionality workstations are required. By distributing the bare minimum of software to the client (e.g. stripped down Kernel, X windows) security is enhanced, and implementation and support costs are minimized.



Getty Images

These platforms offer a compelling opportunity to provide solutions with an unprecedented degree of control over the systems lifecycle.

CHALLENGES

Few would suggest that a wholesale migration to Open Source platforms is viable for most organizations. The challenges to broader adoption of Open Source platforms are significant, but reducing, with time.

The most significant issue limiting adoption of Open Source platforms by organizations remains the availability of applications. Few commercial applications are available in native versions for Open Source platforms. Often there are Open Source alternatives available, but they generally lack in functionality, documentation, or support necessary to be viable in most organizations.

Another challenge is that many hardware vendors do not provide drivers, or provide low level hardware specifications so that developers can develop drivers, for Open Source platforms. As a result one has to be careful when acquiring hardware to ensure the availability of drivers. Of particular issue are wireless network adapters, power management in laptops, and advanced graphic cards.

In conclusion, I hope you have found this overview a useful starting point for your investigation of Open Source systems. These platforms offer a compelling opportunity to provide solutions with an unprecedented degree of control over the systems lifecycle, and should now be included in the solutions evaluation process of most organizations. ■

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The Brand Called YOU

If you think that branding is just for those folks in the marketing department, you're missing an important implement in your career advancement tool kit.

Whether you're an employee or self-employed, branding yourself and marketing that brand should be an ongoing part of your overall career plan. What is a brand? In simple terms, a brand represents a promise made by a company or product to deliver a consistent, positive experience to their stakeholders. Think of the Coca-Cola brand — the product, logo, colours and packaging are always consistent. You never see a Coke logo in blue!

So how do we apply those same principles to personal marketing? All it takes is a little work to develop your own unique brand and a plan to market that all-important asset: YOU.

Objectives

The first step is to decide upon your career goals. Are you looking for a new job? A promotion within your current employer? A complete career change? Or are you a consultant looking for new clients and contracts?

Situation Analysis

A critical aspect of branding is to define your strengths and weaknesses then analyze what differentiates you from others. Do a little qualitative and quantitative research with co-workers, family and friends to help outline your assets.

Target Audiences

You must understand your target audience. In some cases, it's pretty simple. You're looking for a promotion with your current employer, so you let your boss know you're interested. But don't forget about indirect audiences. There are co-workers, suppliers and external consultants who may have influence. And never underestimate the value of positive networking. You never know who knows your next boss. For consultants and job seekers, investigate the companies you would like to work with and then make a plan to meet the people you need to know.

Strategic and Tactical Implementation

The next step is to work through the strategic and tactical plan to achieve your goals. Deliver quality work — always. Maintain a strong network within your employer or client organizations. Developing 365-degree relationships can keep your name top of mind when new positions or contracts come up for consideration. Maintain a strong presence by being visible and attend company functions that allow you to get to know your co-workers and clients better. Do you need additional education or experience? If so, look into courses or volunteer positions that can give you that experience. Attend industry functions frequented by the employees of organizations where you are interested in working.

Timeline/Budget

No marketing plan is complete without a timeline and budget. Whether it's landing a new job or promotion within the next six months or contracting five new clients in the next year, develop a measurable but realistic timeline to achieve your goals. And don't forget about expenses. Check to see if your company will cover the cost of continuing education. If you're a consultant, perhaps there are networking events you should attend or industry associations you should join to meet the contacts you need to reach your goal. Consider how to work those courses, events and volunteer commitments into your schedule and budget.

Evaluation

An important part of any project is to evaluate the outcomes. Analyze the implementation of your plan and whether you have achieved your goals. If so, congratulations on your new clients, new job or promotion! If you haven't yet met those objectives, think about where you can refine your plan to move in the right direction.

Everyone needs to be in charge of marketing his or her most valuable asset. Taking a few cues from the marketing department can help you achieve your goals. ■

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Enterprise Architecture ...

The Value Proposition

In a world of rapid change, the Enterprise Architecture is real, has significant benefits and is more important now than ever.

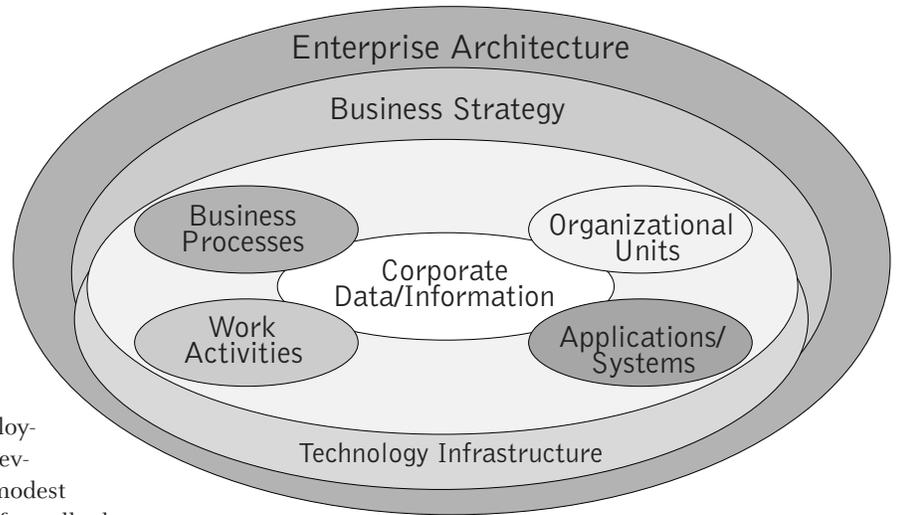
Every organization has one. Sometimes it is complex and rapidly changing; sometimes it is relatively straightforward and stable. It supports an organization of 50,000 employees with billions of dollars in revenues or 100 employees with modest revenues. Whether or not it is formally documented and understood, it exists. What we are referring to is the Enterprise Architecture. In most organizations, the Enterprise Architecture is viewed as an abstract concept that has little value. This view is false. In a world of rapid change, the Enterprise Architecture is real, has significant benefits and is more important now than ever.

Picture this...your organization wants to embrace a new information technology, change a business process, decommission an application or conclude a merger or acquisition. Wouldn't it be great if you could figure out all of the different changes you would have to make to business processes, roles and responsibilities, databases, applications and the underlying information technologies at the click of a mouse? With an Enterprise Architecture, the impact of change can be easier to articulate and can be achieved in a much faster turnaround than traditional methods for impact assessment and gap analysis. An Enterprise Architecture provides the blueprint of the current state and helps to identify the specific areas most affected by the change and then sets up a blueprint to transition to the future state.

An Enterprise Architecture provides the framework to logically organize and model the definitions of an organization by describing:

- what the organization does
- how it does it
- who does it
- what data is used and stored
- what information technologies are employed and how they are used
- the relationships and dependencies between them

An Enterprise Architecture is all about timing. For example, when an organization changes its business processes, it can better understand the impact of change by readily identifying the components of the Enterprise Architecture that will be affected. The organization can quickly understand what needs to change, how



The above model that shows the conceptual relationships between components of the Enterprise Architecture.

to change it, and is now in a position to divert resources to enable the change. It is what organizations dream about!

So how does an organization go about implementing an Enterprise Architecture? Here is a framework of how to get started:

1. Form a cross-functional team with representative stakeholders from across the organization. A common-sense approach needs to be taken here to determine who should be part of the team and how to solicit input throughout the organization. A team no larger than seven or eight should be sufficient, even for the largest and most complex organizations.
2. Define what is meant by enterprise architecture as this defines scope and the mandate for the team. Define the targeted benefits and metrics the organization wants to achieve from its investment in the Enterprise Architecture initiative.
3. Appoint an Enterprise Architecture Champion whose job is to promote the initiative throughout the organization.
4. Establish a cross-organizational Steering Committee to serve as a clearinghouse for the orderly resolution of issues. Again, keep the size of this committee to around seven or eight at the most.
5. Determine an appropriate architectural framework (Zachman, ARIS, etc.) to define the organization's Enterprise Architecture.
6. Select an integrated architectural modeling tool (ARIS, System Architect, etc.) to serve as the repository for process, data, organizational, technology and application architectural models. Ensure the tool is capable of supporting the selected architectural framework.

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7. Define architectural modeling standards and best practices to guide the development of architectural models.

8. Create a group of framework models with logical placeholders for more detailed development at a later date.

9. Identify candidate projects or areas of interest. Start by identifying the project drivers (reducing operating costs, streamlining an inefficient process, improving quality, enhancing capacity, etc.) and then create a group of project centric models that are later incorporated into the Enterprise Architecture framework.

10. As each project completes...harvest the benefits! Quantify the benefits each project and the organization have attained from the on-going development of the Enterprise Architecture framework such as:

- faster impact and gap analysis
- ability to conduct what-if scenarios to evaluate alternate courses of action
- redesigned business processes that have tangibly reduced costs when compared to original process design
- adoption of industry standards and best practices
- introduction of a new information technology that tangibly increases capacity and improves performance
- cost savings by selecting the best alternative for the organization
- cost avoidance
- faster change delivery

Final words of advice... first and foremost, recognize that anything worthwhile takes effort. The benefits can be significant but an on-going commitment to the

Enterprise Architecture's development and maintenance effort must be understood at the beginning. Second, you don't need to define the entire Enterprise Architecture to start accruing benefits. Start in small manageable phases and build the Enterprise

An Enterprise Architecture provides the blueprint of the current state and helps to identify the specific areas most affected by the change and then sets up a blueprint to transition to the future state.

Architecture up over time. Third, recognize that the value of the Enterprise Architecture diminishes rapidly when it is not kept up-to-date. On-going maintenance is essential to the sustainment of benefits accrual.

Although we are obviously passionate advocates of Enterprise Architecture, we would be remiss if we did not balance our passion by admitting that Enterprise Architecture is not a "cure all" for all of the challenges facing IT or the organization. Having said that, an Enterprise Architecture will enhance IT's and the organization's ability to react more quickly to change, embrace new business opportunities and priorities. In a world of rapid change, the Enterprise Architecture is real, has significant benefits and is more important now than ever. ■

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Business Continuity

The latest buzzword?

Business Continuity Planning can be defined as the development of advance procedures that will allow an organization to reduce the impact of a disruptive event to an acceptable level and quickly resume business processes.

Who doesn't remember the buzz around Y2K and all the activity it generated? Since then we have met Information Life Cycle Management (ILM), Storage Resource Management (SRM), and lest we forget Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX), to name only a few. While these IT industry events were all driven by legitimate business requirements, numerous hardware and software vendors have exploited them. Most of us now cringe at the sound of terms like TCO, ROI and compliance mostly because they have been overused to promote the merits of solutions often repackaged to fit the latest market demands.

Enter business continuity. Fueled by recent events around the world, business continuity is on many executives' mind, and vendors are not about to let that opportunity slip away. Could it be the new Y2K? Not likely. Once we see past the miracle hardware or software solution that will save your company in the event of a disaster, we can start appreciating the true value of business continuity planning. In fact, the discipline is not new. Dating back to the mainframe days, it was known mostly as disaster recovery planning (DRP) and was very IT systems centric. Since then, many have recognized that, while planning for the recovery of IT is essential, it doesn't mean much without a plan to resume business activity. DRP is now considered a component of business continuity planning (BCP).

BCP can be defined as the development of advance procedures that will allow an organization to reduce the impact of a disruptive event to an acceptable level and quickly resume business processes. Such planning involves the in-depth review of critical business processes and their dependencies, the impact and likelihood of an interruption of those processes as well as the development of risk mitigation and recovery strategies. At a high level, a risk assessment and business impact analysis lead to the development of business and technology recovery strategies. Those strategies, along with emergency response procedures, are documented to make up the body of a business continuity plan.

Unfortunately, many still view BCP as an exercise in futility, which involves planning for something that will



never happen. That said, activities around the implementation of a business continuity program offer other benefits that are often overlooked but once considered, can justify the effort.

Business impact analysis (BIA) involves an in-depth review of business processes and their dependencies in order to establish criticality and potential losses in the event of a disaster. However, it also often reveals flaws or inefficiencies that were previously undetected simply because no one ever questioned those processes.

Unfortunately, many still view BCP as an exercise in futility, which involves planning for something that will never happen.

Once the impact is established, a risk assessment is combined to determine gaps and exposures. While essential in identifying where risk mitigation and additional controls are required, it sometime leads to the realization that some assets are overprotected. The identification of unnecessary controls can help reduce operational costs. For example, establishing that certain records no longer need to be kept indefinitely can dramatically reduce data storage costs.

Beyond its recent use as a buzzword to make IT solutions more attractive, business continuity planning remains an essential risk management activity. It should be considered another business function that offers a competitive edge. After all, would you trust your next shipment to a transporter that has neglected renewing its insurance policy? ■

Pierre Dorion is the Business Continuity Practice Lead with Mainland Information Systems Ltd. in Calgary, specializing in business continuity planning, backup and recovery and corporate data protection.

Website Content Management:

And the winners are...IT!

The complexity of large websites and the need for speedy publishing have created the demand for effectively automating Web content management. Today, more and more companies are beginning to realize the value and power of content management systems (CMS).

In this age of instant communication, nearly every organization has an Internet website and/or an Intranet to communicate with multiple stakeholders. Keeping these valuable online resources updated with current content can present challenges for IT departments. Traditionally, IT groups have had only two options: either allocate valuable internal resources to manage content publishing or outsource the function. Both options can lead to less-than-ideal outcomes.

When IT provides Web publishing staff, they assume communications responsibilities. Effective, concise and targeted communications with multiple stakeholders is not generally an IT strength. In other cases, IT receives Web content from other sources but if that content is not immediately published, IT appears to have failed to meet user expectations. If the outsource option is selected, IT abdicates its information management respon-

sibility of ensuring the security and availability of company information and data. Choosing either of these options can result in a no-win scenario for the IT group and the organization.

Today, more and more companies are beginning to realize the value and power of content management systems (CMS). The complexity of large sites and the need for speedy publishing have created the demand for effectively automating Web content management without having to solely rely on an IT department. Content management systems move the accountability for Web content back to the content owners, in the same way a document created in MS Word is the responsibility of the author. The core elements to a Web content management system are:

- The separation of look and feel from navigation and content.
- Web content workflow and approval.

- Detailed audit trails and versioning.
- Scalability and reliability.

With a CMS, IT's responsibility becomes simply the implementation and management of a web content management platform. And that is definitely considered an IT strength! IT personnel are not responsible for publishing, approving and managing content. Content creation, approval and management become the responsibility of the content creators: departments such as human resources, public relations, marketing, operations, finance, investor relations and sales. In some cases, IT may be directly responsible for Web content where they are the subject matter experts such

pasting from Microsoft Word or working directly with the built-in editor interface and then clicking save.

For a Web content management system to succeed, it is critical that IT allow the operating departments to take the lead. The ownership and accountability for Web content must reside with the content publishers. To ensure this, it is important that the end user help establish the look and feel of the site, as well as the navigation and workflow approval processes. The most successful CMS implementations are those where the role of IT personnel is limited to providing a solid technical platform with comprehensive security and backups. Now that's an ideal outcome. ■

With a CMS, IT's responsibility becomes simply the implementation and management of a web content management platform — not managing content.

as help desk procedures and network security.

An effective CMS is an easy to use Web-based application that allows content owners to collaborate on the ongoing content creation, management and publication of all types of content. The process must be simple to reduce complexity so content owners and writers can easily publish to the Web. Content owners should be able to update and add content any time and from anywhere through a simple user interface. In some content management systems, the process is as simple as cutting and

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CIPS on Campus

One of the challenges facing the CIPS student members at this time of the year is seeking relevant employment to utilize their skills as they graduate and enter the IT business world with the latest technology skills.

In order to promote CIPS student members we are featuring profiles of students that are available for employment should you have an opportunity that would match the experience and skills of these talented individuals.

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More than 10 years diversified experience in full software development lifecycles. An analytical, detail and results oriented software developer with solid background in finance and logistics. A problem solver with strong interpersonal and communications skills. Projects completed in VB6, C++, C#, ASP.NET, Oracle, MS SQL Server.

Danny mingsong.cai@edu.sait.ca

BSc with over ten years of experience in developing software for a variety of clients. Projects completed in VB .NET, Visual C++, JAVA, JBuilder, SQL Server, Analysis & Design, SQL, PERL, Web Design, Web Servers, ASP .NET, and Internet Security.

Alex alex@gurudom.com

Developer/Analyst with 10 years of experience in financial, telecom and IT consulting industries. Five years of experience in OOP/D/A and Enterprise Application Integration utilizing Java/Python/C++. Familiar with Extreme Programming and Agile methodologies.

Liyang dai_liyang@hotmail.com

Three years experience of software developing with C++, Visual Basic and Java. Very proficient in OOP design and programming.

Chris chris.bonutti@edu.sait.ca

Hard working intelligent student with a strong mind for object oriented programming. Currently studying JAVA, and .NET development package. A strong grasp of relational databases as well as the object oriented methodology. Languages include but are not limited to JAVA, HTML, XML, XSL, Visual Basic 6, JavaScript, PHP, SQL and C++. Database vendor familiarity in Oracle and MySQL.

Hai hhz_angel@hotmail.com

A detail oriented management information system programmer with variety project development and implementation experience with Oracle, Java, VB, VC++. Has



the ability to design in object oriented methods and expertise with database modeling and analysis. Five years of experience in client/server applications.

Raj audiocee@hotmail.com

Over six years of experience in retail software design and implementation for companies such as Hugo Boss and Reebok. Most experience is in PowerBuilder and SQL Anywhere/Adaptive Server. Other experience includes Java, .NET, Web Design/Servers, and Windows/Linux.

Brian zwxieall@yahoo.ca

Over four years of experience in designing and developing OO applications. Excellent skills in VB .NET, C++, JAVA, MS SQL Server, Database Design & Modeling, OO Analysis & Design, SQL, PHP, Web Design, Web Servers and ASP .NET. Familiar with Design Patterns. Hands-on experience in administering and maintaining databases and networks.

Abdelghani gabdelghani@yahoo.fr

Six years experience as an analyst programmer. A background related to database applications development and technical support. Comfortable with a variety of development tools such as C, Java, HTML, JavaScript, Oracle, MySQL, PHP and .NET technologies. Bilingual — English and French. ■

Donna deMan, CIPS Academic/Student Liaison is the Work Experience Officer at SAIT and has 10 years of experience recruiting employers to hire IT students and graduates. For further information about student profiles Donna can be reached at 210-5631 or donna.deman@sait.ca.

New members

January 2005

Terry Gardner

Paul Leroux

Julia Schurtz

February 2005

Robyn Antill

Chuck Dunn

Marty Gaffney

John Hulecki

Darwin Little

March 2005

Jon Watson

Robert McDougall

David Moser

Roberto Pena

James Swanson

CIPS Alberta

Board Update

With close to 600 IT professionals in Alberta with an I.S.P. designation, the CIPS Alberta board works toward administering, maintaining and advancing the I.S.P. designation.

The CIPS Alberta Board is responsible for the administration and advancement of certification, standards, education and discipline of the I.S.P. designation in Alberta, under the Professional and Occupational Associations Registrations Act (POARA).

One of the primary objectives for the CIPS Alberta Board and CIPS Edmonton for the 2004-05 fiscal year was the development of the CIO Value Proposition. This joint effort is intended to communicate the value of the I.S.P. designation to senior IT leaders and provide a clear understanding that professionalism is the foundation of the CIPS organization, that we are committed to certifying qualified IT workers in Canada, and providing support for ongoing professional development. Senior IT leaders were invited to a CIO Value Proposition information session that was held on April 14. For details on the outcome of that initia-

tive, please contact Ron Gatién, I.S.P. at rgatien@cips.ca.

Additional strengthening of the Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct is also being led by Ron. This work covers implementation of the legal and privacy review implications, clarification of the ethical imperatives and review of the existing complaint and discipline processes. A new project team has been formed to focus on the implementation activities as well as the development of a communications campaign on the proposed changes.

Don Burdeyney, I.S.P. has completed the work started by last year's chair, Marnie Juel Shaw, I.S.P., to fully document and publish the I.S.P. discipline process on the CIPS Alberta website. Both the processes to lodge a complaint against an I.S.P. member as well as the process to respond to the complaint have been posted on the CIPS Alberta website at <http://local.cips.ca/alberta/cipsalberta/complaint.html>.

Kirk Kukkola, I.S.P. has been involved in the development and coordination of the Information Technology Body of Knowledge aligning standards of practice, profes-

sional development and accreditation.

Determining what is truly core knowledge to be obtained and maintained by all professionals in a diverse and rapidly evolving industry is a challenging task for both academics and practitioners.

To achieve this, multiple specialized bodies of knowledge may be eventually required to accommodate the wide scope of our profession. A national project for CITBOK strategy development has been established to undertake this issue. The project is currently being planned under the management of Kerry Augustine, I.S.P. The British Computer Society (BCS) www.bcs.org/bcs has created a mature body of knowledge supporting professional development and certification within a professional society model. The BCS is being considered as one alternative on which to build CITBOK.

The CIPS Alberta I.S.P. registration portfolio, managed by Rosalea Campbell, I.S.P., reports that the current I.S.P. membership level for Alberta is at 577 Certified members and 21 Candidate members. The I.S.P. application forms have been consolidated with the CIPS National application form and to streamline the I.S.P. application process, all application forms now go directly to CIPS National.

And finally the CIPS Alberta Website, significantly updated by Ed Gonzalez, I.S.P. in 2003 and managed by David Faber, I.S.P., will be undergoing some refinements through 2005. Over the

last four months, a long-term strategy for the enhancement of the website and the incorporation of added features, such as links to pertinent IT and business websites, has been developed.

Overall 2005 will be an exciting year for the CIPS Alberta Board and we look forward in continuing to add value to the society and its members. Thanks everyone. ■

*David Faber, B.Tech, I.S.P.
Communications Director
CIPS Alberta Board*

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CIPS welcomes articles or story ideas from readers. To submit an article please contact shilo@cips.ca.

CIPScene

Event Profiles

CIPS Calgary offers events and programs for every interest. Check out the back page of CIPScene for information on upcoming events.

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

Ken Christensen provided the audience insight into the roles and responsibilities of a Project Sponsor and how they interact with various individuals or groups within and external to the organization. He believes the major roles of the Project Sponsor are to remove obstacles from the path of the project team and provide them with quick well-thought out decisions. Part of removing the obstacles is to deal with the internal and external politics that can surround the project. The Project Sponsor, or as Ken termed it “the CPO or Chief Political Officer”, brings compromise and balance to the project using their influence to address stakeholder issues.

Ken indicated that the Project Steering Committee is a valuable support resource to the Project Sponsor as they help represent different views of how the project will affect internal and external stakeholders as well help to mitigate issues before they become serious problems. A strong Steering Committee helps sell the project in the organization.

Finally Ken discussed the relationship between the Project Sponsor and Project Manager. The two parties must work very closely together, ensuring they know the limits of their roles and responsibilities. Ken described the Project Sponsor as the “CEO” of a project and the Project Manager as the Chief Operating Officer. The Project Sponsor must let the Project Manager actually manage the project, but be there to help move the obstacles out of the way. However, sometimes the project must adjust its delivery to take into account various external factors that are influencing the organization.



Andrew Ginter, I.S.P. is presented his I.S.P. by Stephanie Hiebert at the February luncheon.



New I.S.P. holder, Giuseppe (Joe) Caputo, I.S.P., is congratulated by Stephanie Hiebert.



Bob Stratton, Sandra Scott, Parin Teja, I.S.P. and Ken Chapman, I.S.P., along with Lynlee Parker, I.S.P. and David Nicholson (not shown) won prizes in the 2004 National Recruit a Member drive last year, and received certificates and prizes from CIPS National. Six of the 12 prizes were won by CIPS Calgary members.



Greg King receives his 25 Year Anniversary award from Stephanie Hiebert.



Robin Hornby, I.S.P. is congratulated by Stephanie Hiebert on 25 Years with CIPS at the April luncheon.



Leading the IT Team

Alison Ramsley, National IT Director for Golder Associates, emphasizes that working for a worldwide company is very stimulating but when you're communicating across different languages, cultures and time zones it's important to make sure you and your counterparts are truly in alignment in your thinking.

Ms. Ramsley gained her grounding in IT from Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton. After graduation, she progressed through a variety of IT roles in both programming and infrastructure within the Alberta government and small consulting firms before moving to Calgary to pursue opportunities in the oilpatch with Alberta Energy Company and then Hurricane Hydrocarbons. She joined Golder almost seven years ago and is now an Associate.

In her spare time, Ms. Ramsley is active in a number of sports and is particularly passionate about hockey.

CIPS: Being in an IT leadership role within a global organization must have its own set of challenges and opportunities. Can you describe some of them?

Ramsley: Working for a worldwide company is very stimulating but when you're communicating across different languages, cultures and time zones it's important to make sure you and your counterparts are truly in alignment in your thinking. You may be using the same words but there may be subtle differences in what they really mean. Common standards across this organization are a key to our success so communicating those and ensuring everyone has a thorough understanding of them is critical.

Also, because we're global, our organization is very reliant on IT to enable collaboration between offices and people — sharing of data, communicat-

ing seamlessly. We strive for "sameness", so an engineer from Calgary can fly to our Finland office, plug his laptop into the network, have access to all the same tools, information and support and immediately be productive.

CIPS: How has IT evolved within your organization since you first arrived?

Ramsley: I initially joined as a Senior Systems Analyst which was a new role within the organization. When I arrived, IT was fractured, isolated, with no real team and no overall direction. A lot of the work had been outsourced and it wasn't working. Support was very basic, any new initiatives were considered "extra" by our provider. At that point we decided to bring IT back in and have since built the team and our capabilities from scratch. Now our help desk here in Calgary supports all of Golder's North American operations and handles over 20,000 calls a year.

CIPS: So how is IT viewed within your organization now and how do you measure success?

Ramsley: We use a balanced scorecard to measure our performance, but I guess the simple answer is that we gauge our success by the feedback we receive from our users. We're now seen as leaders in the company and IT is viewed as strategic to the organization.

continued on page 14

Credibility comes with demonstrating your capabilities. And our success stems from the philosophy that we take a team approach to everything we do. I'm big on teams and when you're operating in a team environment, it's important to put personal agendas aside. To gain credibility at the Board level we have to deliver consistent, unified service. Perhaps the best measure of our success is that we don't get too much attention anymore. Everything works, our users know it works and expect it to work.

CIPS: As a woman in the IT profession you continue to be somewhat in the minority. Why do you suppose that is? Have you encountered any barriers?

Ramsley: I'm not completely sure why. We have 22 full-time employees on our team and only four are women. I personally haven't encountered any professional barriers but there may be some perceived barriers. I've read that when young women are considering their career options they may be taking a negative connotation from terms like "computers" and "computer science". Maybe it implies sitting in a dark room in the basement tearing apart machines until the wee hours of the morning, which it's not. That's why I prefer the term "IT" and that's why I try to promote awareness of this profession whenever I can.

CIPS: What advice would you give to women who are considering a career in IT?

Ramsley: I would urge women to give IT a serious look, especially if they enjoy math and the sciences. In fact, I'm encouraged to hear that our local higher learning institutions are reaching out to females in Grade 9 to spark their interest. It's a fantastic discipline with tons of opportunities. In fact, I believe there are a far broader range of opportunities in a career in IT than in a lot of other professions. I've been able to work in a

couple of different areas in IT, where I was able to do things that were of interest to me and allowed me to play to my strengths. So I'd say give it a chance, try it out, talk to schools and people in the industry.

CIPS: Can you describe some of the high priority initiatives you're working on?

Ramsley: We're in the process of doing a WAN upgrade across the organization — we're moving to a Dynamic Multipoint VPN. This is the third large international initiative that has been undertaken by the

I would urge women to give IT a serious look, especially if they enjoy math and the sciences. It's a fantastic discipline with tons of opportunities.

International IT team. The others were the implementation of Active Directory and Exchange. This sets Golder up for the next six to eight years to be able to easily introduce new technology and tools across the organization in a secure fashion.

Security is always at the top of our priority list. Our security awareness program is front and centre in all of the initiatives we undertake. Anytime we do any kind of IT training we always ensure there's a security component. Our goal is to become a Security Aware culture. We've gone through a lot of growth and gained a relatively young workforce that is open to our thinking. When they come in the door, we tell them about our security policies and they know that's just the way it is.

CIPS: You joined CIPS fairly recently. What are your impressions?

Ramsley: From what I've seen so far, I think it's a great organization and a great vehicle for staying current and connected. I've attended four of the CIPS seminars recently and have found real value in the targeted subjects that have been presented. They're relevant, to-the-point and it's time well spent. ■

Persistence is what makes the impossible possible, the possible likely, and the likely definite.

– Robert Half

BA SIG Update

With summer holidays approaching, we would like to thank Calgary for the great response to the new BA SIG. With close to 150 members already, we look forward to growing the membership and continuing to offer inter-

esting and informational events. Our January event was a sold out show, and we are anticipating another successful event on May 12: "Demystifying the BA BOK" featuring Kathleen Barret, President of the International Institute for

Business Analysis (IIBA). The CIPS Business Analyst Special Interest Group (BASIG) is intended to provide professional business analysts a forum for sharing knowledge and best practices with those who share a common interest in business analysis. The BASIG will contribute to the overall understanding and value of business analysis.

For more information or to register for events,

please visit the CIPS website - www.calgary.cips.ca/events/cipsig/. Stay tuned for the topic of the next BA SIG brown bag event scheduled Fall 2005!

If you have any topic ideas and/or feedback on the BA SIG, please email either of the co-chairs: Cheryl-Lee Riess cheryl-lee.riess@cdilearn.com or Brad Sewall bsewall@ethierassociates.ca. ■

Member Profile:

Ted Barnicoat, I.S.P.

Even though he has retired and moved out of the province, long-time CIPS Member Ted Barnicoat has left a huge imprint on Alberta's IT landscape.



Barnicoat has seen IT become mainstream to both business and management, which has forced IT managers to become business people, and brought CIOs to the executive table.

Picture it...1966... John Lennon announces that the Beatles are more popular than Jesus...Montreal inaugurates its metro transit system... the first "Hello World" application is written in BCPL (Basic Combined Programming Language)... Ted Barnicoat enters the Information Technology industry, and the IT landscape will never be the same. Barnicoat has been instrumental in shaping the direction of our profession for the past three decades.

After receiving his degree in 1965, Barnicoat started his career as a Programmer Analyst. He worked in a variety of roles throughout his career, moving into management, and then executive positions. His most senior positions include ten years at Canadian Utilities Limited as Vice President Information Systems, five years as CIO of Trimac Corporation, and, most recently, Executive Vice President and COO of Richer Systems Group Inc. (RSG).

When asked what changes he has seen in IT throughout his career, Barnicoat doesn't know where to begin, saying, "the whole landscape has changed significantly". The change in power, size, availability and price of computers and the accessibility of the Internet have dramatically changed the face of IT. Barnicoat has seen IT become mainstream to both business and management, which has forced IT managers to become business people, and brought CIOs to the executive table.

Barnicoat joined CIPS in 1973 and has been an active member ever since. He held numerous positions on the CIPS Edmonton Board, and the CIPS National Board. He has been President of both CIPS Alberta and CIPS Edmonton and Chairman of the I.S.P.

Certification Council. Barnicoat was an integral part of developing the I.S.P. designation and earned his I.S.P. in 1989. He says that he delayed applying because he was so busy working on the CIPS National Conference, that he didn't have time to apply. In honor of all of his contributions to CIPS, Barnicoat was awarded the C.C. Gotlieb Award in 1996 and the Honorary Member Award in 2000.

Barnicoat sees tremendous value in being so actively involved in our professional association. "CIPS has provided me contacts that lead to just about every job that I have had. CIPS has provided a network that has been extremely important to career and friendships. You can do nothing through knowledge alone. It's through knowledge and contacts. CIPS provided both," says Barnicoat. He also observes that the introduction of a professional designation has been the most significant change that he has seen in CIPS over his career. Other than that, he doesn't think much else has changed. He comments, "We were busy in the 70s too. But we thought that meeting and holding hands was important. And I think that it still is today. You can't do business over the Internet".

As you can see, Ted Barnicoat has definitely made a mark on the IT industry. His years of hard work have helped to mature and grow our industry. Derek Manns, Past President of CIPS Calgary, says it best, "Ted was generous with his time and always happy to provide an executive perspective on new initiatives. Ted is the type of person that gets involved in the community in many ways". So, Ted, on behalf of CIPS, thank you for your time, effort and commitment to our profession. ■

CIPS

Announcements



Getty Images

I.S.P. BOOT CAMP

Coming to Calgary in October 2005 (exact days TBD).

Day 1: (9:00 am to noon)	FREE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I.S.P. requirements, code of ethics, application process - ICCP examinations, how items are written, strategies for writing examinations, and test process for achieving the I.S.P. - Core information technology skills
Day 1: (noon to 5:00 pm) and Day 2: (9:00 am to 5:00 pm)	CIPS Member USD\$450 Non-Member USD\$650 (Purchase a CIPS membership and get the reduced rate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I.T. management and integrated project management - Information Systems Development - Business Information Systems - Microcomputers and Networking - Data Resources Management - "201 questions and answers" session

Materials included: ICCP's Complete Guide to Professional Computing (a textbook, sample tests, and exam cram guide). Write as many examinations as you like on a pay-if-you-pass basis during the two-day course. These examinations are normally US\$250 per examination. This is a zero-risk opportunity for you to try the exams.

If you want to be kept informed about the date and location of this Boot Camp, please send an email to calgary@cips.ca

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

CIPS Calgary is proud of our members and would like the opportunity to hear more about the great things they do. We'll be honoring some of our best members with CIPS Calgary Membership Awards before the year is out, so watch for more details and nomination forms in the fall.

CONTACT INFO

Are you getting the most of your CIPS membership? If you don't receive emails from us on a bi-weekly basis, then you are missing valuable event information. Make sure that we have your current email address on file by viewing your profile on www.cips.ca (click on "Membership Directory").

TELVENT CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations to Don Keiller of Husky Energy Inc., who was the lucky winner of a Dell DJ 20 digital music player that was given away by Telvent in our Spring CIPScene.

SUMMER BREAK

Your CIPS Calgary Board would like to wish you a safe and happy summer. We will be spending the summer months gearing up for another great CIPS year, and hope to see you at our Fall Season Kick-Off luncheon on September 14, 2005.

CIPScene *Watch for your next newsletter in your mailbox September 2005.*

WHAT IS CIPS?

CIPS is a professional association providing leadership in information systems and technologies. We offer the only IT professional designation (the I.S.P) in Canada. Our national and local activities are dedicated to promoting continuous learning and the ongoing development of an interconnected and world class IT workforce.

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